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Ninth progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 1603 (2005) of 3 June 2005, by which the Council requested me to keep it regularly informed of developments in Côte d'Ivoire and on the implementation of the mandate of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI). The report covers developments since my report of 11 April 2006 (S/2006/222).

II. Political developments

2. During the reporting period, the political atmosphere in Côte d'Ivoire remained generally calm, underpinned by the tandem working relationship between President Laurent Gbagbo and Prime Minister Charles Konan Banny, assisted by periodic consultations within the framework of the "quintet", comprised of the five Ivorian political leaders (President Gbagbo; Prime Minister Banny; the President of the Parti démocratique de Côte d'Ivoire, Henri Konan Bédié; the President of the Rassemblement des Républicains, Alassane Ouattara; and the Secretary-General of the Forces nouvelles, Guillaume Soro). During the visit to Côte d'Ivoire of the Chairman of the African Union, President Denis Sassou-Nguesso of Congo, from 6 to 8 April 2006, the "quintet" had reconfirmed its commitment expressed in the 28 February Yamoussoukro agreement to work together and launch the simultaneous conduct of the disarmament and identification processes.

3. However, there was renewed political tension in April and early May, emanating from a campaign by the Young Patriots, leading members of the ruling party Front populaire ivoirien and the Speaker of the erstwhile National Assembly against the planned concomitant implementation of those key processes. The campaign consisted of strident public statements aimed at discrediting UNOCI and the efforts of the Prime Minister, threats against United Nations personnel, the announcement of plans to organize violent demonstrations, and an attack on a bus carrying UNOCI staff in the Yopougon area of Abidjan on 28 April. My Special Representative, Pierre Schori, discussed with President Gbagbo the negative impact of this hostile campaign on the political and security situation, following which the President's spokesman issued a statement in which he condemned the attack on the

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UNOCI bus, disavowed the plans by the Young Patriots to organize violent demonstrations and called on all Ivorians to allow UNOCI to perform its mission.

4. On 9 May 2006, Prime Minister Banny and President Gbagbo held a private meeting, followed by a joint press conference during which the President urged all Ivorians to allow the Prime Minister to do his work. Shortly thereafter, the Prime Minister announced the launching of a project to conduct the identification of the population on a trial basis, to be tested for one week, at seven selected sites in the zone of confidence, as well as in the areas controlled by the Forces nouvelles. This pilot project took place from 18 to 24 May (see paras. 12 and 13 below), but the expected simultaneous pre-cantonment of the forces, which represents the first phase of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme, could not begin at that time, because the Forces nouvelles and the National Armed Forces of Côte d'Ivoire (FANCI) disagreed on the modalities of the process.

5. On 26 April, the Speaker of the National Assembly convened an ordinary session of the Assembly. The Speaker introduced new rules of procedure suspending the indemnities of the opposition's parliamentarians who had not been attending sessions of the Assembly since its mandate expired in December 2005, as confirmed by the International Working Group on 15 January 2006.

6. On 19 June, following a request by the Mediation Group, President Gbagbo met with all members of the former National Assembly, in the presence of the Prime Minister, to seek a solution to this issue. A committee composed of seven members, including representatives of the President, the Prime Minister, the Speaker and parliamentary groups representing the ruling and opposition parties, was set up in order to formulate recommendations to that effect. On 22 June, the committee recommended that: the parliamentarians return to the Assembly and carry on their duties; the National Assembly carry out its functions in conformity with the Constitution and Security Council resolution 1633 (2005) until the next parliamentary elections; the members of the Assembly undertake peace missions to be assigned by the Prime Minister in consultation with the President; the legislators count on the President to resolve the issue of their unpaid salaries; and, amendments made to internal procedures of the Assembly in the absence of the opposition members be rescinded.

7. On 23 June, opposition members of the National Assembly accepted those recommendations. On that same day, during its eighth ministerial meeting, the International Working Group demanded that the emoluments of former members of Parliament be paid in their entirety and without discrimination, so that they could devote themselves exclusively to peace and reconciliation missions.

8. It was against that background that, on 1 July, on the margins of the African Union summit held in Banjul, I discussed the situation in Côte d'Ivoire with a number of concerned African leaders. It was then agreed that we would continue our consultations in Côte d'Ivoire with the five main Ivorian leaders. On 5 July, President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria, President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa, the Foreign Minister of the Republic of Congo, representing President Denis Sassou-Nguesso, Chairman of the African Union, the Foreign Ministers of Ghana and Burkina Faso, as well as representatives of President Mamadou Tandja of Niger and President Amadou Toumani Touré of Mali joined me in Yamoussoukro to meet with President Gbagbo, Prime Minister Banny, Guillaume Soro, Alassane Ouattara and Alphone Djedje Mady (representing Henri Konan Bédié).

9. The high-level meeting agreed to press ahead with the implementation of resolution 1633 (2005) and the Ivorian parties' undertaking, signed in Yamoussoukro on 28 February 2006. In particular, the Ivorian parties agreed to do everything possible to expedite the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme, as well as the identification processes, and adhere to the agreed timetable and relevant Security Council resolutions. To that end, specific deadlines were set to ensure progress in the implementation of these key processes. On disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, it was agreed that a monitoring group, comprising the Chiefs of Staff of FANCI and the Forces nouvelles, as well as representatives of the UNOCI and Licorne forces and of the Prime Minister, would be established by 15 July, in order to monitor the pre-cantonment process and the dismantling of militias, which are to be completed by 31 July.

10. The high-level meeting also agreed on key measures concerning the preparation of elections. It was agreed that at least 50 mobile courts would be deployed throughout the country by 15 July to proceed with the identification of the population, and that a Presidential decree would be issued by 15 July authorizing the Independent Electoral Commission to adjust as necessary the electoral code governing the upcoming elections. It was further decided that the Independent Electoral Commission's local branches should be established throughout the country by 31 July. The meeting also agreed that a donor conference should be convened as soon as sufficient progress has been achieved, in order to raise funds for the electoral process.

11. The meeting warned those inciting violence and hatred that they could be subject to individual sanctions and decided that a strict code of conduct should be formulated for the media. It also placed emphasis on the need to develop dialogue and mutual trust among Ivorian political actors in order to promote national reconciliation beyond the elections. Finally, the meeting welcomed my proposal to organize a meeting to be held on the margins of the General Assembly in September 2006, to review the situation and take any appropriate measure.

III. Implementation of Security Council resolution 1633 (2005)

Identification of the population

12. Between 18 and 26 May, the Government conducted a pilot project to test the procedures for the identification of the population and gauge the responses of various groups and political parties that had expressed concerns about perceived shortcomings in the planning of the process. This project involved the deployment of mobile courts to receive citizenship applications, conduct public hearings on applicants' eligibility for citizenship, issue duplicate birth certificates where required and determine those eligible for citizenship. The mobile courts were deployed at two sites in the Forces nouvelles-controlled area (Botro and Bouna), two sites in the zone of confidence (Bangolo and Sandégué), and three sites in the Government-controlled areas (Port Bouet in Abidjan, Tiapoum and Meagui in the southern part of the country). UNOCI provided security at the sites in the zone of confidence, monitored the security arrangements provided by the Forces nouvelles and FANCI in their respective areas, and deployed teams to observe the identification process.

13. Despite initial attempts by the Young Patriots to disrupt the hearings in Abidjan, the pilot project was conducted successfully. Of the 5,003 applicants who appeared before mobile courts, 3,907 received their duplicate birth certificates and 3,137 received certificates of nationality. The Government organized a workshop to review the pilot project, with a view to identifying and correcting gaps, and streamlining the procedures in preparation for the launching of the identification process countrywide. The review uncovered some deficiencies in the procedures and logistical arrangements, which a steering committee established by the Prime Minister is seeking to address prior to the nationwide launch of the exercise.

14. The simultaneous implementation of the identification and pre-cantonment process was initially scheduled to begin throughout the country on 15 June. However, the launch of the identification process has been delayed, owing primarily to logistical reasons. The deployment of 50 mobile courts is expected to begin by mid-July, to be followed by an additional 100 teams. These 150 mobile court teams are expected to be deployed throughout the country in order to identify some 3.5 million people, including 1.8 million persons of voting age. According to Prime Minister Banny, the operation should take two months to complete. It will be followed by the issuance of national identity cards to eligible individuals, based on existing data and documents obtained through the mobile courts. The identification process will be coupled with the voter registration process, though the Independent Electoral Commission will produce the final voter register. The cost of conducting the identification process countrywide is estimated at $55 million, out of which $32 million is still needed.

Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration

15. In the meantime, the pre-cantonment of FANCI and Forces nouvelles troops was launched on 22 May. During the 23 June ministerial meeting of the International Working Group, Prime Minister Banny reported that, as of 18 June, 12,547 elements of FANCI had pre-cantoned at the 35 sites designated in their areas of control, while 12,885 elements of the Forces nouvelles had pre-cantoned at 31 of their 50 designated sites. From the outset, logistical challenges have hampered the pre-cantonment of the Forces nouvelles combatants in the north. During the meeting of 23 June, Guillaume Soro pledged that an additional 20,164 Forces nouvelles combatants would proceed to the remaining 19 pre-cantonment sites before mid-July. However, due to the fact that UNOCI has not been granted access to the pre-cantonment sites, the numbers above could not be verified.

16. The pre-cantonment process constitutes the first step in the implementation of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme. The next step should be the cantonment and collection of weapons from the combatants. However, the Forces nouvelles have insisted that the identification of the entire population, including combatants, should be completed prior to the collection of weapons. For its part, FANCI has maintained that the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration plan approved by the parties stipulated that the identification of combatants should be conducted during the pre-cantonment stage. In the meantime, the Chiefs of Staff of FANCI and the Forces nouvelles have failed to agree on demands recently presented by the Forces nouvelles to retain their current military ranks, establish an integrated military command and receive salary arrears for the former members of the army.

17. During the reporting period, the dismantling and disarmament of the militias affiliated with the ruling party in the western part of the country was postponed twice in order to allow militia leaders the opportunity to sensitize their members. The militia leaders have since demanded the inclusion of more individuals in the programme. The modalities for the dismantling of militias in other parts of Côte d'Ivoire, including Abidjan, are yet to be finalized.

18. The cost of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme is estimated at $150 million, out of which $140 million has been pledged (including $80 million pledged by the World Bank, which will be released if and when Côte d'Ivoire pays its arrears to the Bank). The budget for dismantling and disarming the militia is $2.5 million, for which no pledges have been made.

Restoration of State administration

19. According to the Government, the programme for the restoration of State administration will involve the redeployment of 24,437 civil servants to the northern and western regions of the country. So far, the Comité national de pilotage du redéploiement de l'administration has successfully redeployed 6,674 civil servants to the north to resume the provision of basic services, notably in the areas of public health, education, tourism and crafts industry. In the western part of the country, the Committee has successfully carried out a pilot redeployment involving 3,962 civil servants to the Government-controlled Moyen Cavally region and to the zone of confidence. To encourage the return of Government personnel to the 18 territorial departments, the Committee has offered civil servants a package of incentives and installation grants. Efforts are under way to also restore public radio and television broadcasts in the northern, central and western parts of the country.

20. An assessment of the public infrastructure in the northern part of the zone of confidence, which needs rehabilitation, is under way. Some police stations have been rebuilt with the support of the European Union, while several post offices, courts and prisons are also scheduled to reopen in July. Under its quick-impact projects, UNOCI has helped to renovate several health centres and schools, including at Bouaké University. However, additional assistance is urgently required to complete this important programme, including the rehabilitation and refurbishing of many public buildings, logistical and transportation support and housing for redeployed civil servants. The Government needs some $45 million to finance the restoration of State administration in the northern and western parts of the country, of which only $15 million is currently available.

Preparations for elections

21. On 13 April, I appointed Gérard Stoudmann (Switzerland) as High Representative for the elections in Côte d'Ivoire, following the departure of Antonio Monteiro to take up a national assignment. Since his arrival in Abidjan, the High Representative has worked with national and international actors to press for the launching of the electoral process, in particular through the setting up of regional electoral commissions and the improvement of public information about the process. He has also been developing informal instruments of consultation to improve the flow of information between all relevant parties, identify early on possible problems which could slow the process or undermine its quality and find acceptable solutions to these problems.

22. During the period under review, the Independent Electoral Commission conducted field missions to assess requirements for the deployment of 21 regional, 49 departmental and 293 local electoral commissions, as well as administrative arrangements needed for the electoral process in the countryside. The Electoral Commission is also in the process of clarifying the role of the Institute of National Statistics in the electoral process. The latter continues to assert that it is responsible for preparing the voter register, and has initiated unilateral preparations to do so. In its final communiqué of 23 June 2006, the International Working Group recalled the exclusive responsibility of the Electoral Commission for the entire electoral process, as recognized in paragraph 6 of the Pretoria Agreement of 6 April 2005.

23. The Chairman of the Independent Electoral Commission has submitted an electoral budget of $74 million. The Government and the European Union have earmarked $20 million each to finance the process, leaving a shortfall of approximately $34 million.

International Working Group

24. The International Working Group held two meetings during the reporting period. At its seventh meeting, held on 19 May, the Group welcomed the launching of the pilot project on identification and the preparations for the commencement of the pre-cantonment of combatants, noting that this was the first concrete step towards the effective implementation of the identification and disarmament processes. The Group, however, expressed concern over the delay in the implementation of the road map and appealed to all Ivorian parties to cooperate closely with the Government, in order to ensure that the identification and the demobilization, disarmament and reintegration processes are expanded throughout the country immediately upon completion of the pilot project. The Group also condemned acts of violence against the population, political leaders and the impartial forces and warned the spoilers that they may be subjected to targeted sanctions. During its eighth meeting held on 23 June, the Group urged the Prime Minister and the Ivorian parties to set definitive dates for the commencement of the key activities envisaged in the road map for the peace process, in particular the dismantling and disarmament of the pro-Government militias.

IV. Security situation

25. The overall security situation in Côte d'Ivoire has remained generally stable but fragile and volatile. Between 27 April and 3 May, five persons were killed and at least 15 were injured in six villages around Bangolo, in the western part of the zone of confidence, causing 4,000 people to flee the villages. Again, on 28 June, the Licorne forces discovered seven bodies at the village of Blédi in the same area. The deaths were suspected to be related to ethnic disputes and competition for agricultural land, as well as the activities of a local militia known as Cocotaye. There were several incidents in which the Ivorian Defence and Security Forces, the Young Patriots and the Forces nouvelles impeded the movement of UNOCI and Licorne troops. Some of the incidents were resolved amicably. UNOCI also received reports about cases of extortion involving Forces nouvelles and FANCI troops throughout the country.

26. The crime rate remains high in the zone of confidence, in particular in areas where the impartial forces cannot ensure regular patrolling. Armed robberies, assaults and murders are the most commonly reported crimes. Currently, there are no law enforcement authorities in the zone of confidence. UNOCI has revised its directive on cases of persons apprehended in the zone of confidence to clarify the procedures related to the handing over of such persons to the appropriate Ivorian authorities for prosecution.

27. The military dialogue between FANCI and the Forces nouvelles, which continued during the period under review, has been affected by the lack of agreement on specific issues concerning the disarmament programme and the future reintegration of Forces nouvelles military personnel in the Defence and Security Forces, as well as by the postponement of the dismantling of the militias. As such, the militias and other extremist groups continue to pose a potential threat to the peace process and to UNOCI personnel, as the risk of politically motivated violence against the impartial forces or minorities, especially in Abidjan and the western part of Côte d'Ivoire, has not abated. Incidents inside and around the zone of confidence have also the potential to be exploited for political purposes.

28. On 17 May, the United Nations police (UNPOL) resumed joint patrols with the Ivorian Defence and Security Forces in Abidjan. UNPOL has also accompanied FANCI elements on patrols throughout Abidjan to monitor and advise on operational enforcement issues. Moreover, UNPOL has sought to strengthen its working relationship and cooperation with the Defence and Security Forces to facilitate joint activities such as the selection and appointment of liaison officers and police training initiatives.

29. The Force Commanders of the United Nations Missions in West Africa, meeting in Freetown from 17 to 19 May and in Dakar on 9 June, recommended that troops of UNOCI and the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) carry out synchronized concomitant patrols along the Liberia-Côte d'Ivoire border for a two-month period in order to increase the United Nations security presence, establish cross-border liaison and reassure the local population. From 4 to 8 June, UNOCI conducted special operations along the Liberian border to deter cross-border movement of fire arms and combatants. A joint UNOCI/UNMIL operation was carried out from 26 to 30 June, from which lessons learned will inform subsequent operations.

V. Status of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire

Force deployment

30. As of 6 July, the troop strength of UNOCI stood at 6,896 military personnel, out of an authorized strength of 8,115 personnel. The shortfall is due to the delayed deployment of the Ghanaian military aviation unit, currently scheduled for July, and of the 1,025 additional military personnel approved under Security Council resolution 1682 (2006). These reinforcements, as well as the military personnel who will be deployed during the troop rotation process, are expected to receive basic training and specific equipment for crowd control. This will further enhance the capability of the military units to defend UNOCI installations and personnel, and complement the formed police units' operations requiring the use of non-lethal force. The additional personnel are expected to arrive in July and August. An

infantry battalion will be deployed in Abidjan to address long-standing security requirements, while an infantry company will be deployed in the west to reinforce the Benin contingent. Some 73 additional gendarmes will reinforce the Sous-Groupement de Sécurité unit of UNOCI, which continues to provide security to the ministers of the transitional Government and other key political leaders.

31. Notwithstanding the recent reinforcements authorized by the Council, the numbers still fall short of the troop level needed to adequately support the implementation of the road map for the peace process, as indicated in my previous reports to the Council. I may therefore revert to the Council at a later date with a request for additional reinforcements based on the security demands on the ground.

Police deployment

32. As of 6 July, the overall strength of UNPOL stood at 728 personnel, including three formed police units, against an authorized strength of 1,200. The shortfall is due to the expected deployment of the reinforcements authorized under resolution 1682 (2006), scheduled to be deployed by the end of July.

33. UNPOL personnel are deployed throughout the country at 19 sites, where they continue to carry out the following functions: mentoring and advice to the local security and defence forces through mixed patrols; refresher courses and specialized police training at various academies; joint security patrols with Licorne and UNOCI forces in the northern part of the country; and participation in arms embargo inspections. The recently authorized 100 additional police officers will monitor, mentor and train the 600 security auxiliaries recruited to provide security in the northern part of the country during the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process.

34. Formed police units, currently deployed in Abidjan, Bouaké and Daloa, are providing protection to United Nations personnel, property and installations. They have also commenced joint training exercises with UNOCI and Licorne troops in riot control and joint patrols. The three additional formed police units authorized under Security Council resolution 1682 (2006) will be deployed in Abidjan, Bangolo and Yamoussoukro.

VI. Humanitarian situation

35. The beginning of May 2006 saw a deterioration of the humanitarian situation in the western part of the country, particularly within the zone of confidence, as a result of an increase in both inter-ethnic violence and crime. The upsurge of violence in the Bangolo area alone, within the zone of confidence, forced more than 4,400 persons to flee their villages in early May. The level of poverty, which rose from 38 to 44 per cent since 1999, continues to grow. The return of internally displaced persons to their own villages has been impeded by poor security conditions and the absence of public social services and utilities in their areas of return.

36. Problems with the supply of basic utilities have multiplied throughout the country. The water supply to Bouaké, which was interrupted during the entire month of May, was finally restored, with Government assistance, in early June. From 6 May to 6 June, UNOCI troops distributed some 20,000 litres of water to United

Nations personnel, vulnerable groups and institutions in Bouaké, and transported another 650,000 litres of water to the town of Bouaké. Water supply problems are also reported in 12 other cities throughout the country, including Séguéla, Touba, Danané, Man and Tortya.

37. Several cases of bird flu in poultry were reported in Abidjan. In this regard, the emergency and prevention plan has been put into action with the active participation of different United Nations agencies.

VII. Human rights

38. The pattern of human rights violations remained the same as in the previous reporting period, with violations being committed by elements of the Defence and Security Forces, elements of the Forces nouvelles and members of the Fédération estudiantine et scolaire de Côte d'Ivoire. Violent intercommunity clashes occurred in several villages in the zone of confidence (Gohouo Zagna, Bahibly, Goénié Tahouaké, Duékpé, Glopou and Diéouzon) and in the south in Aboude-Mandeke in the area of Agboville.

39. Authorities within both the Government and the Forces nouvelles have declared their intention to vigorously address human rights violations. The Minister of Justice and Human Rights, in particular, has announced his intention to strengthen collaboration with human rights monitoring mechanisms of the United Nations and the African Union; resume the preparation and submission of periodical reports required by various international human rights treaties to which Côte d'Ivoire is a party; implement a broad programme of human rights awareness for members of the Defence and Security Forces; establish a unit to receive complaints about human rights violations and to prosecute perpetrators of such violations; and mobilize resources to improve conditions in prisons and other detention facilities, especially for women and children.

40. On 1 June, for the first time in western Côte d'Ivoire, a civilian prosecutor ordered the arrest of a prominent leader of a militia group for his alleged involvement in the torturing to death of a civilian in the city of Duékoué by members of his militia. Similarly, at a press conference on 26 May, the spokesman for the Forces nouvelles declared that all elements of the armed forces of the Forces nouvelles would henceforth be held individually accountable for any serious human rights violations that they commit and that perpetrators of such violations would remain accountable to the international community for their misdeeds after the Ivorian crisis ends.

41. UNOCI has continued to pursue its policy of promoting human rights and reporting human rights violations. It has completed two special reports, on the events of mid-January 2006 in Abidjan and other cities and on human rights violations committed by members of the Fédération estudiantine et scolaire de Côte d'Ivoire in recent years. It also produced two television programmes, on youth and human rights and on the human rights of women and girls, which were broadcast in June by Radio Télévision ivoirienne.

Child protection

42. During the period under review, the UNOCI Child Protection Unit, in collaboration with the United Nations police, trained 630 officers and non-commissioned officers from the national gendarmerie and police force on child protection. Arrangements are being made to conduct similar training in areas under the control of the Forces nouvelles. In addition, UNOCI, together with the United Nations country team and other partners, is working towards the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1612 (2005) and, particularly, the establishment of a monitoring and reporting mechanism on grave violations committed against children in armed conflict. UNOCI and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) are also assisting the Forces nouvelles to fully implement their action plan to end the use of child soldiers, and are encouraging pro-Government militia groups to commit to a similar action plan, in accordance with Security Council resolutions 1539 (2004) and 1612 (2005).

VIII. Media monitoring

43. Some media continue to disseminate messages of hatred and ethnic intolerance, mainly targeting migrant communities, especially Burkinabé, Guineans and Malians. The climate of mistrust and fear has been fuelled by reports in some opposition media accusing the Young Patriots, and other pressure groups linked to the presidential camp, of planning acts of violence. In addition, the media affiliated with the ruling party mounted a campaign against the identification and pre-cantonment exercise.

44. UNOCI is working with the Minister of Communication, media regulatory bodies and the media to foster a better media environment, in particular through the enactment of key decrees setting standards for the media, which have been pending since December 2004. UNOCI has also developed a code of conduct for the media and political actors during the upcoming electoral period.

45. UNOCI has continued its efforts to foster a better understanding among the Ivorian population of its role and functions through targeted programming on UNOCI FM, weekly and monthly television programmes focusing on various aspects of the UNOCI mandate, wide distribution of UNOCI publications through its field personnel and public forums and meetings with civil society representatives. The most recent UNOCI opinion poll, conducted after the January 2006 crisis, showed that UNOCI presence is appreciated by some 72 per cent of Ivorians.

IX. Gender issues

46. In addition to the regular induction courses on gender issues for UNOCI troops and staff, UNOCI, together with UNICEF and the United Nations Development Programme, trained 30 national school advisers from 19 regions of the country in gender equality. The Mission also assisted in the training of women candidates for the elections. In addition, some 1,000 police cadets and 26 officers from the national gendarmerie and police force have participated in gender training courses conducted by UNOCI. UNOCI also continued systematic gender training for male peer

educators from its contingents on the prevention and control of sexually transmissible infections and HIV/AIDS. Finally, UNOCI has provided advice to the relevant authorities on how to address the lack of concern for special needs of female ex-combatants in the pilot project of pre-cantonment for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process.

X. HIV/AIDS

47. UNOCI continued its HIV/AIDS awareness-raising activities. So far, 339 peer educators have been trained. Voluntary confidential counselling and testing was launched in May, and 97 personnel have been voluntarily tested. From 12 to 21 June, a mission jointly undertaken by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the United Nations Population Fund and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS assisted in the development of a coordinated strategy to mainstream HIV/AIDS concerns in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process.

XI. Conduct and discipline

48. The UNOCI Conduct and Discipline Team continues its preventive programmes and receives and monitors allegations of misconduct by Operation personnel. As of 29 June, 24 United Nations peacekeeping personnel, including 16 civilian, three police and five military personnel, had been investigated or were undergoing disciplinary procedures for misconduct. Allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse have been made against seven personnel, including three police, three military and one civilian personnel. During the reporting period, three investigations of misconduct were completed, resulting in the reprimand of one civilian and one police personnel. One allegation involving a civilian was found to be unsubstantiated.

49. With regard to prevention initiatives and policy implementation, the Conduct and Discipline Team continued to deliver mandatory training to Operation personnel on standards of conduct, particularly in relation to sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment. During the reporting period, 421 civilian, police and military personnel received training on sexual exploitation and abuse. As of July, a certification process will be instituted to monitor attendance at training sessions. The Operation continued to ensure the availability of welfare and recreation activities for its personnel, such as a gymnasium.

50. The Operation also improved mechanisms to enforce United Nations standards of conduct by designating locations where prostitution is likely to occur as "off-limits" to United Nations personnel. With regard to procurement ethics, the Operation disseminated standards of conduct via information circulars, which emphasized the policy of zero tolerance for the acceptance of gifts or hospitality from suppliers.

XII. Observations

51. In recent months, the Ivorian parties have made noticeable efforts to move the peace process forward. Since the beginning of the conflict, Côte d'Ivoire has never been as close to resolving the key issues that lie at the heart of the crisis, in particular the identification of the population, the disarmament of combatants and militias, and the restoration of State authority in the northern and western parts of the country. The working relationship between the tandem formed by President Gbagbo and Prime Minister Banny, and the continuing dialogue among the "quintet" comprising the President, the Prime Minister, Henri Konan Bédié, Alassane Ouattara and Guillaume Soro, have greatly contributed to the generally stable political and security atmosphere that prevailed in Côte d'Ivoire during the period under review.

52. However, while the steps taken so far towards implementing the road map for the peace process provide the necessary ingredients for further progress, sustained, focused and unambiguous efforts to expedite countrywide identification and disarmament are urgently required in order to take the country out of crisis. These two key processes, which must be conducted in a credible manner, and the restoration of State authority in the northern and western parts of the country are indispensable to the holding of elections. The pilot project launched by the Prime Minister in May and the initial pre-cantonment of combatants have demonstrated that the Government plans for conducting simultaneous identification and disarmament are feasible. The Ivorian political, military and militia leaders must therefore summon the necessary political will and fully implement the road map for the peace process. The international community needs to remain united in exercising pressure on all parties to deliver on their commitments, and the Security Council should not hesitate to impose targeted measures against any individual obstructing the peace process or inciting to hatred and violence.

53. The logistical and financial constraints impeding the pre-cantonment of combatants, the identification process and the electoral preparations also need to be addressed urgently. While the Government must do its part in providing the required resources, the international community must also assist to meet expeditiously the funding and logistical shortfalls. I therefore appeal to Member States to provide the resources needed to close the funding gaps identified in this report, including at the donor conference envisaged during the high-level meeting held in Yamoussoukro on 5 July. UNOCI and the United Nations family in Côte d'Ivoire stand ready to provide logistical and technical support, within their currently available resources and mandate.

54. As the election date and the end of the transition period on 31 October approach, it is imperative that the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process, the identification and the preparations for the elections remain on track and ensure sustained progress on these key processes. The Ivorian parties must implement the decisions made during that high-level meeting held in Yamoussoukro on 5 July, during which I impressed upon them the importance of a timely, transparent and credible process, leading to free and fair elections and national reconciliation. As agreed during that high-level meeting, I intend to convene a follow-up meeting, on the margins of the General Assembly in September, to take stock of the situation and to make any further determination as may be needed.

55. While much still remains to be done to prepare and conduct free and fair elections, the process of fostering national reconciliation and unity should not end with the completion of the transition period. In order to build lasting peace and stability, it is essential for all Ivorian parties to pursue dialogue on how to carry forward the efforts to foster unity and national reconciliation beyond the elections, as was agreed in Yamoussoukro on 5 July. It is hoped therefore that the Forum for National Dialogue will facilitate genuine discussion towards that goal. It is also important for the principal Ivorian political leaders to reach an understanding that they will work towards a joint national future, but also an inclusive post-elections political dispensation. Such an understanding would not only consolidate unity it would also help to reassure those political parties which see the elections as a "winner-takes-all" situation in which those who lose will lose all.

56. The peace process in Côte d'Ivoire is again at a crossroads. The consolidation of the fragile gains achieved since the beginning of the year will need the sustained political will and efforts of all Ivorian parties. It is also critical that, in addition to the timely implementation of all components of the road map for peace, the conditions of a lasting peace be rapidly established throughout the country, including the promotion and protection of human rights, respect for the rule of law and assistance to the most vulnerable. I call on all Ivorians to uphold these principles and renounce and condemn exclusion and incitement to hatred and violence.

57. In conclusion, I would like to commend my Special Representative, Pierre Schori, and the civilian and military staff of UNOCI for their continued efforts in support of the quest for sustainable peace in Côte d'Ivoire. I also wish to thank the High Representative for the elections, Gérard Stoudmann, who began his assignment on 8 April, for his initiatives aimed at keeping the electoral process on track. Similarly, I would like to express my gratitude to the United Nations country team, humanitarian and development organizations and bilateral donors and the countries that are contributing troops and police personnel to UNOCI, as well as to the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States, for their contributions to the peace process.

Annex

United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire: Military and civilian police strength as at 6 July 2006

Country	*Military observers*	*Staff officers*	*Troops*	*Total*	*Formed police unit*	*Civilian police*
Argentina						4
Bangladesh	11	11	3 473	3 495	125	9
Benin	9	7	304	320		28
Bolivia	3			3		
Brazil	4	3		7		
Cameroon						65
Canada						9
Central African Republic						3
Chad	3			3		5
China	7			7		
Croatia	3			3		
Djibouti						40
Dominican Republic	4			4		
Ecuador	2			2		
El Salvador	3			3		1
France	2	16	171	189		10
Gambia	5			5		
Ghana	6	7	397	410		1
Guatemala	5			5		
Guinea	3			3		
India	8			8		11
Ireland	2			2		
Jordan	7	10	200	217	250	
Kenya	5	4		9		
Madagascar						6
Morocco	1	3	732	736		
Namibia	3			3		
Nepal	3			3		
Niger	6	2	366	374		53
Nigeria	5			5		16
Pakistan	11	10	364	385		2
Paraguay	11	2		13		
Peru	3			3		
Philippines	4	3		7		11
Poland	2			2		
Republic of Moldova	4			4		

Country	*Military observers*	*Staff officers*	*Troops*	*Total*	*Formed police unit*	*Civilian police*
Romania	5			5		
Russian Federation	8			8		
Senegal	8	6	314	328		43
Serbia	3			3		
Spain						
Switzerland						2
Togo	6	2	292	300		1
Tunisia	5	2		7		
Turkey						21
Uganda	2	2		4		
Uruguay	2	1		3		6
Vanuatu						4
Yemen	6			6		2
Zambia	2			2		
Total	**192**	**91**	**6 613**	**6 896**	**375**	**353**

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Cartographic Section